

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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CAMPAIGN HAT AND BOW TIE WIN NATIONAL AWARD -WSP named the nation's "Best Dressed" police agency-

It's official: not only is the Washington State Patrol the best state police agency of its size, WSP troopers are now being called the nation's "best dressed" state police officers.

The National Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD) named WSP the Best Dressed State Law Enforcement Agency for 2007. This comes just weeks after the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) named WSP the best state police agency of its size.

"If you really want to be the best, you have to look your best," said Chief John R. Batiste. "We instill in every new cadet the importance of wearing the uniform correctly, and with pride."



Uniforms are an integral part of police work. The uniform identifies the wearer as an authority figure, and as someone who the public can go to in time of crisis.

"When a citizen in need meets a trooper whose bow tie is straight and whose shoes are shined, they know right away that they're being assisted by a professional," Batiste said. "We believe a positive first impression helps create a positive overall contact."

NAUMD judges reviewed each department's professional appearance and uniform diversity, paying close attention to detail and written standards. NAUMD considered many factors to determine which law enforcement agency was the best dressed. Some of these factors include does the uniform fit the job function, is the appearance neat, do the garments fit properly, and can the public immediately identify the wearer as a professional law enforcement officer?

The campaign hat and black bow tie first became part of the WSP uniform circa 1937. These two items distinguish a WSP Trooper from other law enforcement officers. NAUMD judges also reviewed non-traditional WSP uniforms, such as SWAT, K-9, and bicycle patrol uniforms.

Each campaign hat and bow tie worn by a WSP Trooper is a representation of the professionalism and pride of all the men and women of the WSP. WSP is honored to receive this prestigious award and will continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

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Links:

IACP Picks WSP As Best State Police Agency of Its Size
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/newsfaqs/releases/mr092107b.pdf>

NAUMD Entry Form (With pictures)
(Link TBD)

Group pictures showing various uniforms
(Link TBD)